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Headteacher: Andy Brant BSC

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Ref: ABR/Summer Term 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a fantastic start to the summer term. Our students have returned with great energy, enthusiasm and ambition. The Year 11 cohort is busy revising and preparing for GCSE examinations. Uniform, as ever, looks superb and we thank you for your continued support.

### **Headteacher appointment**

The term ended with the exciting announcement that Miss Karen Slater will be replacing me as Headteacher after the half term break. Miss Slater went through a rigorous selection process and brings with her a wealth of experience. CORE Education Trust has recruited well and it is pleasing to be leaving the academy in such capable hands.

### **E-safety, mobile phones and connected devices**

Having sought advice from experts in safeguarding and e-safety, we have **taken the decision to prohibit the use of mobile phones (and other connected devices) on the academy site.** Despite a significant investment in monitoring and filtering software, we currently have no effective means to prevent students accessing inappropriate material or social media on their personal (connected) devices. **In short, we know our students are safe and supervised when using the academy's internet, but we cannot guarantee their safety when they are using mobile phones with 4G.**

As a parent, I know that a mobile phone provides peace of mind. It is a way of contacting our children when they are commuting to, or from, school. For this reason, we will not completely ban mobile phones from the building, as many other schools have. **However, we are now asking students to ensure that all mobile phones/devices are switched off and not used at any point during the academy day.** Your child will no longer be allowed to use their phone at break or lunchtime. It will take some time for our students to adjust and we will show some leniency over the next few weeks. Of course, any phones used within lessons will be confiscated, as has always been the procedure.

### **Birmingham Repertory Theatre / Echo Eternal Holocaust Memorial**

Before the Easter break, a number of our students gave a fabulous performance at Birmingham Repertory Theatre. This was the culmination of two terms' work with a professional artist and our Head of Drama. It was the first of many planned events with high profile local organisations. This term, students will be working with the Echo Eternal commemorative arts project. Participants will, again, benefit from having an artist in residence to shape and support their performance pieces.

### **Academy catering during examinations: 14<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> June**

In May, our Year 11 students will commence GCSE examinations on the fourth floor of the building. Therefore, our catering team will be providing all services in the under-croft, rather than in the dining hall. In addition to sandwiches and baguettes, hot food will still be available on a 'grab and go' basis. We will ensure that students still have a number of nutritious options and that all needs are catered for. After examinations have concluded in June, normal service will resume.

## **Punctuality and Attendance**

We all understand the importance of attending school every day and of being punctual. Reliability, personal organisation and good timekeeping are also essential in the world of work. I would like to remind you that lateness at City Academy Birmingham results in a one hour (same day) detention. This detention will be supervised by Miss Bains, Miss Lewis and Mrs Smith. Most of our students arrive well before the final bell as a result of our shared commitment to punctuality.

### **Key dates:**

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018** - School Closed (Bank Holiday)
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018** - Start of Year 11 GCSE Examinations
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018** - Year 8 Parents' Evening / Guided Choices Event
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018** - End of Half-Term (School closes normal time)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018** - Students return (School opens normal time)

Again, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Andy Brant  
Headteacher